**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A process and apparatus for energy efficient remediation of soil contaminated with hydrocarbons, including desorbing the hydrocarbon contaminants from a bed of the soil by thermal desorption in a treated desorption chamber (20) and thereafter combusting the contaminants in a thermal oxidiser (30). The combustion air for the desorption chamber and the thermal oxidiser, and the desorbed contaminants prior to admission to said thermal oxidiser, are preheated by heat exchange (40) with offgases from the thermal oxidiser. The offgases are then rapidly quenched at below 200°C. ~~An apparatus is also disclosed, as are processes in which the separated contaminants are treated in the thermal oxidiser in at least two stages, including a combustion stage (P) in which the contaminants are combusted with a first supply of combustion air at a substantially adiabatic temperature in the range 900-1200°C, and a second stage (a) in which a second supply of combustion air is admitted for combustion of residual compounds and for controlling the offgas outflow temperature, and a process in which the desorbed contaminants in gaseous form are at least in part combusted within the desorption chamber by controlled admission of air into the chamber above the bed to effect such combustion.~~